

# VIEWS OF BISHOP GRANT.

Noted Divine Talks Freely of the Washington Roosevelt Dinner and of Race Problems—Lynching is the Greatest in the South—Hoar Bill is endorsed by the Bishop.

(Iowa State Register)

Bishop Grant, of Indianapolis, Ind., in the city and will be heard at the Y. M. C. A., andatorium tonight. He was seen by a reporter for The Register on his arrival from Chicago, Saturday and he talked freely of public affairs. Naturally, the first topic of interest related to the Washington-Roosevelt dinner. Asked his view of that, Bishop Grant said:

"President Roosevelt, in inviting Mr. Washington to dinner, was in harmony with his past life, and did nothing more than any president should do who desires to show that he appreciates all nationalities who are citizens of this country, and I do not believe that scarcely any publicity would have been given to the act had not it been that it was just a few days before the elections in several states.

"I was in Washington city at the time, and the papers of that city simply announced that Prof. Booker T. Washington had dined with the president, and we heard nothing more of it until some strong protests came. I cannot see how an intelligent man can entertain the view that any individual or any class of individuals, can establish rules to govern the social relations of the people for there is no such thing as social equality. Any one who enjoys the acquaintance of President Roosevelt will agree that when he decides on a course of action he will act.

"In accepting the invitation to dine with the president, Mr. Washington simply did what any other American citizen would do had he the opportunity—to dine with the chief magistrate of the nation. Mr. Washington is a gentleman of high character, and a scholar and we have been taught that this is what the American people require of any race or nationality to accept them as men. He is doing more for the development of his people than any other one man in the country, except those who furnish the means with which to do, and my prayer is that nothing will occur to interfere with his work. Just a few days ago I visited his school and found 1,200 students hard at work preparing themselves for future usefulness, and all knowing what they will follow as their life work when they leave Tuskegee Normal. If the United States government desires to do something substantial for the Negro race, let it establish institutions of this character in every state where slavery existed, and prepare the young people to do the skilled labor of the South as their fathers have for the last 150 years.

Bishop Grant was asked his view of the nation's attitude on lynching. He said: "The Republican party was born at a time when there was a great duty to be performed and it seems that it was intended by Providence that Abraham Lincoln should meet the emergency. The first was to abolish slavery. The second is to guarantee equal rights to all regardless of race or color. The third is to guarantee to all citizens the right of suffrage, irrespective of color, race or previous condition of servitude. These are all covered by the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the national constitution so far as they relate to my race. As to how well the constitutional rights have been enforced is left to the intelligent public to

"The Chicago Tribune says the record of lynchings in this country for twenty years since 1881 shows a total of 3,130. The details of this red record, as given by the Tribune, show that many of these lynchings, too, were accompanied by torture, to match which we must go to Turkey and China.

The details for the years 1881-4 inclusive, are not procurable, although the totals are. Beginning with 1885 and ending with 1900, the record is complete. In these sixteen years there were 2,516 lynchings. In the list, Indiana has the unpleasant distinction of holding the record among the Northern states, more lynchings having occurred within its bounds than in any other Northern state. The number was thirty-six. Thirteen states exceeded this number. They are; Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The Indiana record by years was: In 1886 8; in 1887 6; in 1889 3; in 1890 2; in 1891 3; in 1893 2; 1894 3; in 1896 1; in 1897 5; in 1898, 1; in 1900 3. Mississippi leads for the period, with 253; Texas next, with 247; Louisiana, third with four hundred and twenty-two; Georgia fourth with two hundred and nineteen; then Alabama with two hundred and ten; Tennessee, 169; Arkansas 156; Kentucky, 140; Florida, 109; South Carolina, 84; Virginia, 78; Missouri, 65; Indian Territory, 53; Indiana, 36; Oklahoma, 36. The only states that were free from this crime are Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware and Utah. Of the total of 2,516 in these sixteen years, two thousand and eighty were perpetrated in the Southern states and 436 in the Northern. Of the victims 2,465 were men, 51 women.

"It will be seen by these figures that the crime of lynching has become contagious and only the Almighty knows where it will end if the nation does not take hold of it with a strong hand. All civilized nations now join with the Chinese minister in the statement that lynching is strictly an American institution, as such lawlessness is not practiced in any other country."

Bishop Grant spoke of the Hoar anti-lynching bill before congress. He said: "Since the Republican party's organization it has usually taken the stand for good government, hence we expect the senate to stand by Mr. Hoar's Bill. If the bill passes it will have a tendency to check the crime complained of, and I am of the opinion that some of the liberal Democrats—if the thought of state rights can be eliminated—will support the bill. Several of the Southern governors in their messages to the legislatures, have made stronger recommendations against lynching than any of the Presidents of the United States. Among these were Govs. Hogg of Texas, Longino of Mississippi, and Jones of Alabama. If Senator Hoar's bill fails to pass we can do nothing but abide our time and pray for some party to be organized that will see that every right guaranteed by the constitution shall be enjoyed by all citizens alike."

"Is there a disintegration among Afro-American voters as between parties?"

"There is not at this time. Six years ago there was a sentiment among the colored people which indicated that in a few years the vote would be divided as much as that of any other nationality in the country, but since the disfranchising methods have been adopted in several of the states it is my opinion that the effect has been to make the Negro vote more solid for the Republican party than ever, and it is now

thought that a large number of them will emigrate to North and West from the states where these disfranchising acts have been passed. If these people locate in the doubtful states, as many believe the Republican party will control the nation for the next quarter of a century."

"Roosevelt as you know him?"

"President Roosevelt is the highest type of an American citizen and will do his duty as he understands it."

"How is the work and the growth of the church progressing?"

"At the close of the civil war, the membership of the A. M. E. Church was 50,000. It is now over 600,000 has 6,200 ministers and 6,800 congregations, with 17 institutions of learning; foreign work has three conferences on the coast of West Africa, three in South Africa, two in Canada, one in Bermuda, one in Hayti, one in San Domingo one in British Guiana, one at the Windward Isles and one in Liberia. The property of the connection is valued at \$10,000,000 so we feel in our humble way, that we are doing as well as possible with the means at our command, to advance our Redeemer's kingdom. We had eighteen delegates at the great ecumenical conference just closed in London."

## Race Cleanings.

In the Southern tobacco factories there are over 5,000 colored tobacco workers who are members of the tobacco workers' union.

The Negroes of Alabama are raising money to carry the Constitutional Amendment and its appendages to United States Supreme Court.

It is thought at Bev. C. L. Purcell, D. D., who is president of the State University of Kentucky, will accept the presidency of Selma University, Selma Ala.

Ambler Institute, Springfield, Ill. is another school similar to Booker T. Washington's and has the capacity and means to teach the youth of the race 35 trades.

The United Investment Company, a commercial enterprise of Chicago is owned and operated solely by colored men, Pullman car porters at that, who have decided to open a bank in connection with the big stores that they are already successfully operating in that city.

The statement has come to us that Negroes in Hawaii are not handicapped on account of color. We would advise the young Negro who has not a chance to show himself in this country to an advantage to go there or to the Philippine Islands.

Spelman Seminary, at Atlanta, Ga., is said to be the largest and best equipped school for colored girls in the world. It has property valued at \$300,000, including nine well appointed brick buildings, 41 teachers, and 800 students.

## LATE LOCAL.

Mr. Louis R. Clark of the U. S. Mail Bag and Repair Shop was a pleasant New Year caller at this office.

Col. William Pledger of Atlanta, Ga., arrived in the city this week and is stopping at the McKinley House.

The song service conducted by the Philharmonic Glee Club, Sunday afternoon at A. M. E. Zion Church, D St., Southwest, was quite a treat. Mr. J. I. Newman deserved much praise as a leader. A paper was also read by the Hon. Calvin Chase, Editor of The Bee.

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